

IDEA Maintenance of Effort FY 2012 Eligibility Results Available

The IDEA Maintenance of Effort (MOE) 2011-12 Eligibility Report and Exceptions software is now available to local educational agencies (LEAs) through the Special Education Web Portal at <https://www2.dpi.state.wi.us/seportal/Pages/SignIn.aspx>. All individuals who have access to the LEA's IDEA budgets will see "IDEA Maintenance of Effort" in the Applications table on the Local Performance Plan Main Menu page.

To receive this year's IDEA grant allocation, an LEA must meet 2011-12 MOE eligibility. On the IDEA Maintenance of Effort menu, LEAs can immediately determine whether or not they have passed the FY 2012 MOE eligibility test because their status will either read "Met" or "Failed." LEAs that fail to comply with MOE must submit exceptions to DPI through the IDEA MOE Compliance Report and Exceptions software. These exceptions must be submitted by Friday, January 27, 2012. Technical assistance on submitting exceptions can be viewed at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/moe-3-eligibility.pdf>

Since the October 2011 child count number has not been finalized, please be aware that the October 2010 child count number is used for both the 2010-11 and 2011-12 fiscal years in the eligibility comparison. When the October 2011 child count number is finalized, the scenario calculator within the eligibility test link will be updated so that LEAs can project 2011-12 compliance using the most recent child count data.

Regardless of the LEA's initial "Met" or "Fail" status, we will review all submitted data and send an email confirming your LEA's "Met" status. Due to the large volume of data, the review process may take a considerable amount of time, so please be patient.

If you experience any issues while reporting exception data, please contact Lori Ames at lori.ames@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 267-3749.

Special Education Funding Changes with Senate Bill 95

Senate Bill 95, which will be published and go into effect on December 20, amends WI Stat. §115.88(1) to expand the types of private vendor contractual services eligible for categorical aid from only OT and PT to include orientation and mobility training services, educational interpreter services, educational audiology, speech therapy, and pupil transition services for students ages 18 to 21.

The Special Education and School Financial Services teams will be identifying and implementing the necessary changes to both the categorical and IDEA grant programs to accommodate SB95. Although guidance may not be available until early spring, LEAs may plan on the ability to access 2011-12 IDEA grant funds for these expanded private vendor services. However, LEAs should be aware that all LEA employed staff or privately contracted staff must be highly qualified and hold appropriate licensure to be eligible for IDEA funds.